

**JUSTICES OF THE PEACE  
RSA 455-A**

**455-A:1 Appointment.** – Justices of the peace shall be appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the executive council, and shall be commissioned for 5 years, as provided in the New Hampshire constitution.

**455-A:2 Application.** – I. Any person applying to be a justice of the peace shall indicate on the application whether he or she has been a registered voter in this state for at least 3 years immediately preceding the date of application. The applicant must sign a written statement under oath stating as to whether the applicant has ever been convicted of a crime that has not been annulled by a court, other than minor traffic violations. The applicant shall be endorsed for appointment by 2 justices of the peace and a registered voter of this state.

II. A person shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 if he or she negligently or recklessly makes a material false representation on the application form when applying for a commission as a justice of the peace. A person is guilty of a class A misdemeanor if he or she purposefully or knowingly makes a material false representation on the application form when applying for a commission as a justice of the peace. The civil penalty shall be imposed in the same manner as set forth in RSA 455:16.

**455-A:3 Powers.** – Every justice of the peace shall have the power to administer oaths, perform marriage ceremonies, acknowledge instruments, and any other power prescribed by law. A justice of the peace signing an acknowledgment or jurat on any document or instrument shall type, print, or stamp the name of the justice of the peace and state the expiration date of his or her commission on the document or instrument. However, failure to meet these requirements shall not impair the legal validity of any acknowledgment or jurat.

**457:31 Who May Solemnize** – Marriage may be solemnized by a justice of the peace as commissioned in this state; by any minister in the gospel in the state who has been ordained according to the usage of his or her denomination, resides in the state, and is in regular standing with the denomination; by any clergyman who is not ordained but is engaged in the service of the religious body to which he or she belongs, resides in the state, after being licensed therefore by the secretary of state; within his or her parish, by any minister residing out of the state, but having a pastoral charge wholly or partly in this state; by judges of the United States appointed pursuant to Article III of the United States Constitution, by bankruptcy judges appointed pursuant to Article I of the United States Constitution, or by United States magistrate judges appointed pursuant to federal law.

**501-A:1 Fees for Justices of the Peace for Administering Oaths.** – For administering and certifying oaths, except the oaths of office of town officers, a justice of the peace shall be entitled to a fee of up to \$5 for each oath.

**517:2 Before Whom.** – Any justice or notary public in the state, any commissioner appointed under the laws of the state to take depositions in other states, any judge or justice of the peace or notary public in any other state or country, may take such deposition.

**597:15 Appointment.** The superior court may appoint justices of the peace and quorum as commissioners authorized to fix and receive bail in criminal cases as hereinafter provided.

**597:15-a District Courts.** District courts may appoint 3 or more justices of the peace and quorum as commissioners authorized to fix and receive bail and other fines and fees as authorized by law in criminal or civil cases to be brought before said courts as hereafter provided.

**597:16 Municipal Courts.** Municipal courts may appoint 3 or more justices of the peace and quorum as commissioners authorized to fix and receive bail and other fines and fees as authorized by law in criminal or civil cases to be brought before the said municipal court as hereafter provided.